APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/997,706	12/23/1997	SEISHI EJIRI		1646

5514   7590   06/05/2002

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	08/997,706	EJIRI, SEISHI
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Joseph R. Pokrzywa	2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>6</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 March 2002* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4 and 6-23* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4 and 6-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
           application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Applicant's amendment was received on 3/14/02, and has been entered and made of

record. Currently, **claims 1-4, and 6-23** are pending.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant has provided evidence in this file showing that the invention was owned by, or

subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same entity as Kosaka (U.S. Patent Number

6,119,142) at the time this invention was made. Accordingly, Kosaka (U.S. Patent Number

6,119,142) is disqualified as prior art through 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) in any rejection under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) in this application, particularly, the rejections of **claims 8, 13-17, and 20**.

However, the Japanese foreign priority document of Kosaka (being Japanese Patent Number 9-

18498) was published before the filing date of this application, therein qualifying as prior art

under section 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and accordingly is not disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C.

103(a). Because of this, a new rejection of *claims 13-17, and 20* will follow in this Office action,

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kosaka (Japanese Patent Number 9-18498,

using U.S. Patent 6,119,142 as an English translation of the Japanese document) in view of

Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901).

3.   Contrarily, the foreign priority papers of this application, which are Japanese Patent

Application 8-348049, filed 12/26/96, was filed before the publication date of the above noted

Kosaka foreign priority reference. Currently, the applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority

papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of

record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

4.   Applicant's arguments with respect to *claim 8* have been considered but are moot in view

of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 3/14/02, with respect to independent **claims 1, 7, 18, 19, and

21-23,** have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6.   In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of independent *claim 1*,

which states on page 9, that Kosaka fails to teach of a notification unit, adapted to notify a data

processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a data

transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said

operation input unit, wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the

transmission result information in accordance with a change in a state of said data

communication system. Particularly, applicant argues that the cited portion of Kosaka, noted as

column 8, lines 20 through 67, does not describe notification of a transmission result based on a

change in state of a data communication system. Upon review of Kosaka, the examiner finds that

within column 8, lines 20 through 67, specifically lines 20 through 22, Kosaka states that "[a]t

step 38, a document identifier is given, and transmission processing as described by steps S1 to

S8 in Fig. 4 is performed." Further, as read in column 5, lines 1 through 11 regarding Fig. 4, the

reception status is set in the transmission-management information table in step S8 after

transmission of a document S6, whereby this reception status is a "change in state" of the system,

as required by the claim. Continuing, as seen in step S42 of Fig. 8, and read in column 8, lines 32

through 38, the reception status, discussed above as being a change in state of the system, is then

outputted to a predetermined terminal). Because of this, Kosaka can still be interpreted as

notifying the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a

change in state of a data communication system, as required by the claim.

7.   Therefore, the rejection of independent **claim 1**, as well as independent **claims 18, and**

21-23, as cited in the Office action dated 12/18/01, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated

by Kosaka (U.S. Patent Number 6,119,142), is maintained and repeated in this Office action.

8.   Continuing, regarding the rejection of *claim 7*, applicant argues on pages 10 and 11 that

Kosaka fails to teach of "an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation

manually inputted by an operator, said operation input unit being part of said data

communication system," and "a designation unit, adapted to designate an ID, representing a

user's data processing terminal on the network connected by said connector, from the manual

designation inputted by way of an operation of said operation input unit." Specifically, applicant

argues that the cited portion of Kosaka, noted as column 4, lines 47-57, does not disclose a

designation unit adapted to designate an ID that represents a user's data processing terminal on a

network from an inputted manual designation. Kosaka teaches of an operation input unit

(operation unit 112, see Fig. 1), adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an

operator (column 3, lines 14 through 16), with the operation input unit being a part of the data

communication system (see Fig. 1), a designation unit (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1), adapted to

designate an ID (sender terminal identifier, column 4, lines 47 through 57, column 7, line 61

through column 8, line 3, discussing steps S32 and S33 in Fig. 8), representing a user on the

network connected by said connector (LAN controller 124), from the manual designation

inputted by way of an operation of the operation input unit (column 7, line 61 through column 8,

line 3). As seen in steps S32 and S33 in Fig. 8, and read in column 7, line 61 through column 8,

line 3, it is determined "whether or not an input of a sender-terminal identifier has been made at

the operation unit 112". This shows that the operation unit 112 is adapted to receive a manual

designation manually inputted by an operator, and that the manual designation is an ID that

represents a user's data processing terminal on a network from an inputted manual designation,

as required by the claim.

9.   Therefore, the rejection of independent **claim 7**, as well as independent **claim 19**, as cited

in the Office action dated 12/18/01, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Kosaka

(U.S. Patent Number 6,119,142), is maintained and repeated in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-
(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the
invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in
section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b)
only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such
treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this
subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

11.   **Claims 1 through 4, 6, 7, 9 through 12, 18, 19, and 21 through 23** are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kosaka (U.S. Patent Number 6,119,142, cited in the

Office action dated 12/18/01).

Regarding *claim 1*, Kosaka discloses a data communication system (see Figs. 1 and 2)

which comprises a connector (wired/wireless LAN controller 124, seen in Fig. 1, column 3, lines

24 through 29), adapted to connect a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing

terminals (seen in Fig. 2, and read in column 3, lines 24 through 43) to the data communication

system (see Fig. 2), an operation input unit (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1), adapted to receive a

manual designation manually inputted by an operator (column 3, lines 14 through 16), a data

transmitter (network control unit NCU 109), adapted to transmit data based on the designation

inputted by the operation input unit (column 2, line 64 through column 3, line 6, and column 6,

lines 43 through 49), with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal

(facsimile 208) via a line (through wire communication line 120) that does not include the

connector (see Figs. 1 and 2), and a notification unit (CPU 101 performing a control program

from ROM 102, column 2, lines 43 through 53), adapted to notify a data processing terminal

(column 7, lines 29 through 45), via the connector (wired/wireless LAN controller 124) of

transmission result information (column 8, lines 46 through 67) representing a data transmission

performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit

(see Fig. 7, column 5, lines 1 through 11, and column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 23),

wherein the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result

information in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 5,

lines 1 through 11, column 8, lines 20 through 67, and Figs. 4 and 8), wherein the notification

unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the data

transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter (steps

S40-S42 in Fig. 8), and wherein the notification unit notifies, in a case where user information is

inputted by the operation unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a

data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result

information (see Fig. 7).

Regarding *claim 2*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

1 above, and further teaches that the data transmitter transmits data based on a second

designation from the data processing terminal connected to the data communication system via

the connector (column 6, lines 43 through 62, and column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 23).

Regarding *claim 3*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

1 above, and further teaches of the transmission result information notified by the notification

unit includes a transmission destination (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 37 though 56).

Regarding *claim 4*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

1 above, and further teaches of the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the

transmission result information in accordance with a change in information to be notified

(column 8, lines 20 through 67).

Regarding *claim 6*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

1 above, and further teaches of the notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of data

transmitted by the data transmitter (column 8, lines 46 through 67).

Regarding *claim 7*, Kosaka discloses a data communication system (see Figs. 1 and 2)

which comprises a connector (wired/wireless LAN controller 124, seen in Fig. 1, column 3, lines

24 through 29), adapted to connect a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing

terminals (seen in Fig. 2, and read in column 3, lines 24 through 43) to the data communication

system (see Fig. 2), an operation input unit (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1), adapted to receive a

manual designation manually inputted by an operator (column 3, lines 14 through 16), with the

operation input unit being a part of the data communication system (see Fig. 1), a designation

unit (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1), adapted to designate an ID (sender terminal identifier,

column 4, lines 47 through 57, column 7, line 61 through column 8, line 3, discussing steps S32

and S33 in Fig. 8), representing a user on the network connected by said connector (LAN

controller 124), from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of the operation

input unit (column 7, line 61 through column 8, line 3), a data transmitter (network control unit

NCU 109), adapted to transmit data based on a destination inputted by the operation input unit in

accordance with an ID designation performed by the designation unit (column 7, line 55 through

column 8, line 3), with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal

(facsimile 208) via a line (through wire communication line 120) that does not include the

connector (see Figs. 1 and 2), a notification unit (CPU 101 performing a control program from

ROM 102, column 2, lines 43 through 53), adapted to notify the user on the network connected

by the connector (column 7, lines 29 through 45) corresponding to the ID designated by the

designation unit, via the connector (step S32 in Fig. 8, column 7, line 65 through column 8, line

3), of information representing a data transmission performed by the data transmitter based on

the destination inputted by the operation input unit (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 57 through 67), a

determination unit (CPU 101 performing a control program from ROM 102, column 2, lines 43

through 53), adapted to determine whether or not the ID is designated by the designation unit

(step S32 in Fig. 8), and a controller (CPU 101 performing a control program from ROM 102,

column 2, lines 43 through 53), adapted to control the notification unit in accordance with a

determination result of the determination unit (see Fig. 8), wherein the notification unit notifies

the data processing terminal of information related to the data transmission upon completion of

the data transmission performed by the data transmitter (step S40 in Fig. 8).

Regarding *claim 9*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

7 above, and further teaches that the ID designated by the designation unit is information

representing a user on a network (sender-terminal identifier, column 4, lines 33 through 38, and

column 7, line 61 through column 8, line 3).

Regarding *claim 10*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

7 above, and further teaches that the data transmitter transmits data, based on the designated ID,

from the data processing terminal connected to the data communication system via the connector

(column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 23).

Regarding *claim 11*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

7 above, and further teaches of the information notified by the notification unit includes a

transmission destination (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 37 though 56).

Regarding *claim 12*, Kosaka discloses the data communication system discussed in claim

7 above, and further teaches of the notification unit notifying the data processing terminal of the

data transmitted by the data transmitter (column 8, lines 46 through 67).

Regarding *claim 18*, Kosaka discloses computer-readable storage medium (ROM 102)

storing a program (column 2, lines 43 through 53) for implementing a method for controlling a

data communication system (facsimile 201, seen in Figs. 1 and 2) connected to a network that is

connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals (seen in Fig. 2, and read in column 3, lines

24 through 43) via a connector (wired/wireless LAN controller 124, seen in Fig. 1, column 3,

lines 24 through 29), with the program comprising program code for an input step of receiving a

designation manually inputted by an operator (through operation unit 112, seen in Fig. 1, column

3, lines 14 through 16), program code for a transmission step of transmitting data based on the

designation manually inputted in the input step (column 2, line 64 through column 3, line 6, and

column 6, lines 43 through 49), with the data being transmitted to an external data

communication terminal (facsimile 208) via a line (through wire communication line 120) that

does not include the connector (see Figs. 1 and 2), and program code for a notification step of

notifying the data processing terminal (column 7, lines 29 through 45), via the connector

(wired/wireless LAN controller 124) of transmission result information (column 8, lines 46

through 67) representing a data communication performed in the transmission step based on the

designation inputted in the input step (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 57 through 67) and in

accordance with a change in state of the data communication system (column 5, lines 1 through

11, column 8, lines 20 through 67, and Figs. 4 and 8), wherein the notification step notifies the

data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the data transmission

upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmission step (steps S40-S42 in

Fig. 8), and wherein the notification step includes notifying, in a case where user information is

inputted in the input step with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data

processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information

(see Fig. 7).

Regarding *claim 19*, Kosaka discloses a computer-readable storage medium (ROM 102)

storing a program (column 2, lines 43 through 53) for implementing a method for controlling a

data communication system (facsimile 201, seen in Figs. 1 and 2) connected to a network that is

connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals (seen in Fig. 2, and read in column 3, lines

24 through 43) via a connector (wired/wireless LAN controller 124, seen in Fig. 1, column 3,

lines 24 through 29), with the program comprising program code for an input step of receiving a

designation manually inputted by an operator (column 3, lines 14 through 16) using an operation

unit that is a part of the data communication system (operation unit 112, seen in Fig.1), program

code for a designation step of designating an ID (sender terminal identifier, column 4, lines 47

through 57, column 7, line 61 through column 8, line 3, discussing steps S32 and S33 in Fig. 8),

representing a user on the network connected by the connector (LAN controller 124), from the

manually inputted designation (column 7, line 61 through column 8, line 3), program code for a

transmission step of transmitting data based on a destination manually inputted in the input step

using the operation input unit (column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 23), with the data being

transmitted to an external data communication terminal (facsimile 208) via a line (through wire

communication line 120) that does not include the connector (see Figs. 1 and 2), program code

for a notification step of notifying the user on the network connected by the connector (column

7, lines 29 through 45) corresponding to the designated ID, via the connector (step S32 in Fig. 8,

column 7, line 65 through column 8, line 3), of information representing a data communication

performed in the transmission step based on the destination manually inputted in the input step

(see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 57 through 67), program code for a determination step of determining

whether or not the ID is designated in the designation step (step S32 in Fig. 8), and program code

for a control step of controlling the notification step in accordance with a determination result of

the determination step (see Fig. 8), wherein the notification step notifies the data processing

terminal of information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data transmission

performed in the transmission step (step S40 in Fig. 8).

Regarding *claim 21*, Kosaka discloses a data communication system (facsimile 201, seen

in Figs. 1 and 2) that communicates with an external device (facsimile 208) via a transmission

path (through wire communication line 120), and that communicates with a data processing

terminal (seen in Fig. 2, and read in column 3, lines 24 through 43), with the system comprising

a signal path (wired/wireless LAN controller 124, seen in Fig. 1, column 3, lines 24 through 29)

through which the data communication system (facsimile 201) communicates with the data

processing terminal (column 3, lines 24 through 43), with the signal path being a path different

from the transmission path (see Figs. 1 and 2), an input section (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1)

through which an operator manually inputs a designation to the data communication system

(column 3, lines 14 through 16), a transmitter (network control unit NCU 109) that, based upon

the manually inputted designation (column 2, line 64 through column 3, line 6, and column 6,

lines 43 through 49), transmits data through the transmission path (wire communication line 120)

to the external device (facsimile 208), and a notifier (CPU 101 performing a control program

from ROM 102, column 2, lines 43 through 53) that, because of a change in state of the data

communication system (column 5, lines 1 through 11, column 8, lines 20 through 67, and Figs. 4

and 8), notifies the data processing terminal (column 7, lines 29 through 45) through the signal

path (wired/wireless LAN controller 124) of transmission result information (column 8, lines 46

through 67) corresponding to the data transmission by the transmitter based upon the manually

inputted designation (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 57 through 67), wherein the notifier notifies the

data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the data transmission

upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter (steps S40-S42 in

Fig. 8), and wherein the notifier notifies, in a case where user information is inputted by the input

unit with an address of the external device, a data processing terminal corresponding the user

information of the transmission result information (see Fig. 7).

Regarding *claim 22*, Kosaka discloses a method of controlling a data communication

system (facsimile 201, seen in Figs. 1 and 2) that communicates with an external device

(facsimile 208) and with a data processing terminal (seen in Fig. 2, and read in column 3, lines

24 through 43), comprising a step of manually inputting a designation to the data communication

system (through operation unit 112, seen in Fig. 1, column 3, lines 14 through 16), a step of

transmitting data to the external device (facsimile 208) via a transmission path (wire

communication line 120), based upon the manually inputted designation (column 2, line 64

through column 3, line 6, and column 6, lines 43 through 49), with the transmitting step

producing transmission result information (column 8, lines 46 through 67), and a step of

notifying, as a consequence of a change in a state of the data communication system (column 5,

lines 1 through 11, column 8, lines 20 through 67, and Figs. 4 and 8), and via a signal path

(wired/wireless LAN controller 124) that does not correspond to the transmission path (see Figs.

1 and 2), the data processing terminal of the transmission result information (see Fig. 7, column

7, lines 57 through 67), wherein the notifying step notifies the data processing terminal of the

transmission result information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data

transmission performed in the transmitting step (steps S40-S42 in Fig. 8), and wherein the

notifying step includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted in the input step

with an address of the external device, a data processing terminal corresponding the user

information of the transmission result information (see Fig. 7).

Regarding *claim 23*, Kosaka discloses a computer-readable storage medium (ROM 102)

storing a program (column 2, lines 43 through 53) for implementing a method for controlling a

data communication system (facsimile 201, seen in Figs. 1 and 2) that communicates with an

external device (facsimile 208) and with a data processing terminal (seen in Fig. 2, and read in

column 3, lines 24 through 43), with the program comprising code for an input step of inputting

a designation to the data communication system (through operation unit 112, seen in Fig. 1,

column 3, lines 14 through 16), code for a transmission step of transmitting data to the external

device (facsimile 208) via a transmission path (wire communication line 120), based upon the

manually inputted designation (column 2, line 64 through column 3, line 6, and column 6, lines

43 through 49), with the transmitting step producing transmission result information (column 8,

lines 46 through 67), and code for a notification step of notifying, as a consequence of a change

in a state of the data communication system (column 5, lines 1 through 11, column 8, lines 20

through 67, and Figs. 4 and 8), and via a signal path (wired/wireless LAN controller 124) that is

not the transmission path (see Figs. 1 and 2), the data processing terminal of the transmission

result information (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 57 through 67), wherein the notifying step notifies

the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the data

transmission upon completion of the data transmission performed in the transmitting step (steps

S40-S42 in Fig. 8), and wherein the notifying step includes notifying, in a case where user

information is inputted in the input step with an address of the external device, a data processing

terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information (see Fig. 7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

13.   **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.*

(U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901, cited in the Office action dated 12/18/01) in view of Otsuka

(U.S. Patent Number 5,579,126, cited in the Office action dated 2/27/01).

Regarding *claim 7*, Kikuchi discloses a data communication system (remote fax 9 and fax

server 1, see Fig. 4) which comprises a connector (fax communication control unit 20, connected

to public switched network 5), adapted to connect a network (public switched network 5) that is

connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals (faxes 6, seen in Fig. 1) to the data

communication system (see Fig. 1, and column 5, lines 53 through 56), an operation input unit

(operation control unit 22), adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an

operator (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line 61 through column 12,

line 5), with the operation input unit being a part of the data communication system (see Fig. 4,

column 5, lines 59 through 62), a designation unit (fax communication control unit 20, column 8,

lines 58 through 66), adapted to designate an ID (a destination user identifier, column 8, lines 58

through 66, or destination telephone number, in column 12, lines 1 through 5), representing a

user on the network connected by said connector (faxes 6 connected to public switched network

5), from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of the operation input unit

(column 8, lines 58 through 66, and column 12, lines 1 through 5), a data transmitter (LAN

control unit 21), adapted to transmit data based on a designation inputted by the operation input

unit in accordance with an ID designation performed by the designation unit (column 8, lines 58

through 66), with the data being transmitted to an external data communication terminal (fax

server 1) via a line (LAN 4) that does not include the connector (see Figs. 1 and 4, and column 8,

line 66 through column 9, line 9), a notification unit (fax communication control unit 20),

adapted to notify the user on the network connected by the connector (fax 6 connected to public

switched network 5), via the connector, of information representing a data transmission

performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit

and in accordance with the ID designation performed by the designation unit (see Fig. 10, step

1008, column 10, lines 50 through 67), a determination unit (communication management unit

10 in fax server 1, which is part of the data communication system as a whole, see Figs. 1 and 3),

adapted to determine whether or not the ID is designated by the designation unit (steps 1006 and

1007, column 10, lines 44 through 56), and a controller (communication management unit 10 in

fax server 1, which is part of the data communication system as a whole, see Figs. 1 and 3),

adapted to control the notification unit in accordance with a determination result of the

determination unit (steps 1007 and 1008, column 10, lines 44 through 67).

However, Kikuchi fails to particularly teach if the notification unit notifies the data

processing terminal of information related to the data transmission upon completion of the data

transmission performed by the data transmitter. Otsuka discloses a data communication system

(facsimile apparatus 50, seen in Figs. 1 and 2) which comprises a connector (LAN I/F 16, seen in

Fig. 2), adapted to connect a network (concentrator 40) that is connectable to a plurality of data

processing terminals (see Fig. 1, personal computers PC1, PC2, and PCm) to the data

communication system (see Fig. 1), an operation input unit (operation/display unit 10, see Fig.

2), adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator (column 4, lines 27

through 31), with the operation input unit being a part of the data communication system (see

Fig. 2), a data transmitter (NCU 19), adapted to transmit data, with the data being transmitted to

an external data communication terminal (reception station, column 6, lines 37 through 60) via a

line (telephone line) that does not include the connector (step 107 in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 54

through 60), a notification unit (CPU 1 performing steps 110 –112 in Fig. 4, therein including

the lack-of-record-area message procedure of Fig. 5), adapted to notify the user on the network

connected by the connector (LAN interface 16), via the connector, of information representing a

data transmission (transmission result record lists in Figs. 3C and 3D, column 5, line 44 through

column 6, line 4) performed by the data transmitter (step 203 in Fig. 5, column 7, lines 33

through 44), wherein the notification unit notifies the user's data processing terminal (one of the

personal computers PC1, PC2, and PCm) of information related to the data transmission (being

the lack-of-area message) upon completion of the data transmission performed by the data

transmitter (steps 110-112 in Fig. 4, and step 203 in Fig. 5, column 6, line 61 through column 7,

line 44, wherein after transmission of data in step 107, a result record list is produced in step 110,

and then transmitted in step 203, thereby showing that the notification unit notifies the user's

data processing terminal upon or subsequent to completion of the data transmission). Therefore,

it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to include Otsuka's teachings in Kikuchi's system. Kikuchi's system would be easily

modified with the inclusion of Otsuka's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features,

being additive in nature.

14.   **Claim 8** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.*

(U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901, cited in the Office action dated 12/18/01) in view of Otsuka

(U.S. Patent Number 5,579,126, cited in the Office action dated 2/27/01), and further in view of

Hashimoto *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,644,404, cited in the Office action dated 12/18/01).

Regarding *claim 8*, Kikuchi and Otsuka disclose the data communication system

discussed in claim 7 above, but fail to specifically teach of the notification unit not performing a

notification process in an absence of an ID designated by the designation unit. Hashimoto

discloses the data communication system (facsimile server terminal 1, column 4, lines 52

through 58), having a notification unit not performing notification in an absence of an ID

designated by the designation means (column 7, lines 46 through 67, and column 8, lines 15

through 32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to include Hashimoto's teachings in Kikuchi and Otsuka's system.

Kikuchi and Otsuka's system would be easily modified with the inclusion of Hashimoto's

teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

15.   **Claims 13 through 17, and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Kosaka (Japanese Patent Number 9-18498, hereinafter referred to as Kosaka'498, using

U.S. Patent Number 6,119,142, issued to Kosaka, cited in the Office action dated 12/18/01, as an

English translation) in view of Kikuchi *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,552,901, cited in the Office

action dated 12/18/01).

Regarding *claim 13*, Kosaka'498 discloses a method of controlling a data processing

terminal (server 202, or terminals 203 and 204, seen in Fig. 2, and read in column 3, lines 30

through 43), connected to a data communications system (facsimile apparatus 201) via a

connector (wired/wireless LAN controller 124, seen in Fig. 1, column 3, lines 24 through 29)

that connects the data communications system (facsimile apparatus 201) to a plurality of data

processing terminals (see Fig. 2) for performing data communication with a destination

(receiving side facsimile apparatus 208), and of controlling the data communication system

(facsimile apparatus 201, seen in Figs 1 and 2, with a process seen in Figs. 5 and 8).

Kosaka'498's method comprises an input step, in which an operator manually inputs (column 3,

lines 14 through 16) a destination using an operation input unit (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1), a

transmission step, in which data is transmitted (column 2, line 64 through column 3, line 6, and

column 6, lines 43 through 49) to an external data communication terminal (facsimile 208) via a

line (through wire communication line 120) that does not include the connector (see Figs. 1 and

2), a reception step, in which communication result information representing a data

communication performed in accordance with a manual operation inputted by the operator in the

input step is received from the data communication system (column 8, lies 20 through 67), a step

of instructing the data communication system (transmitting-side facsimile apparatus 201) to

communicate with the destination (column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 19), a step of

notifying the data processing terminal of the communication result information related to the

data communication upon completion of the data transmission performed in the data

transmission step (step S40 in Fig. 8), wherein the notification step notifies, in a case where user

information is inputted by the operation unit with an address of the external data communication

terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result

information (see Fig. 7).

However, Kosaka'498 fails to teach of a storage step of independently storing the

communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction in

the instruction step. Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a data processing terminal (fax

server 1, see Figs. 1 and 3), connected to a data communication system (remote fax 9) via a

connector (LAN control unit 21) that connects the data communication system (remote fax 9) to

a plurality of data processing terminals (see Fig. 1, fax server 1, file server 2, and clients 3) for

performing data communication with a destination (opposite fax 6), and of controlling the data

communication system. Kikuchi's method comprises an input step, in which an operator

manually inputs a destination (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line

61 through column 12, line 5), using an operation input unit (operation control unit 22, see Fig.

4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a transmission step, in which data is transmitted (column 9,

line 44 through column 10, column 10, line 56, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line

28) to an external data communication terminal (fax 6) via a line that does not include the

connector (public switched network 5, column 10, lines 57 through 67), a reception step, in

which communication result information (communication history data, wherein the transmission

result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the

communications with the opposite faxes 6, seen in column 17, lines 60 through 67) representing

a data communication performed in accordance with the destination inputted by the operator in

the input step is received from the data communication system (column 8, line 58 through

column 9, line 9, and see Fig. 10, column 9, line 63 through column 10, line 67, whereby a

document is transmitted to a destination user identifier and destination telephone number of a fax

6 which was entered by a user of the operation control unit 22, therein having information

regarding the result of this communication in the history data which is transmitted by the remote

fax 9 and received in the receiving step by the fax server 1, column 17, lines 60 through 67), a

step of instructing the data communication system (remote fax 9) to communicate with the

destination (see Fig. 10, and column 9, line 44 through column 10, line 67), and a step of

independently storing the communication result information received in the reception step

(column 17, lines 60 through 67) and communication result information representing a data

communication based on an instruction (process of Fig. 10) in the instruction step (see Fig. 7,

column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 24, wherein the user identifier of each opposite

communication party with the number of sheets of each communication, along with the result of

the communication are stored in management table 32, read in column 7, lines 10 through 25.

Since each of the user identifier's and each of the communications are stored with the

corresponding communication result, it can be interpreted that the individual communication

results are stored independently, whether the result information is received in the reception step,

or based on an instruction in the instruction step). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Kikuchi's

teachings within Kosaka'498's system. Kosaka'498's system would easily be modified to

incorporate Kikuchi's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in

nature.

Regarding *claim 14*, Kosaka'498 and Kikuchi disclose the method discussed in claim 13

above, and Kikuchi further teaches of the information representing a user ID received in the

reception step (user identifier, column 8, lines 58 through 66) and the communication result

information related to the data communication are stored in an area corresponding to the user ID

in the storage step (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 10 through 25, and column 17, lines 55 through

67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to include Kikuchi's teachings within Kosaka'498's system. Kosaka'498's

system would easily be modified to incorporate Kikuchi's teachings, as the systems share

cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding *claim 15*, Kosaka'498 and Kikuchi disclose the method discussed in claim 13

above, and Kosaka'498 further teaches of the data received by the data communication system

(facsimile apparatus 201) is received in the reception step (column 8, lies 20 through 67).

Regarding *claim 16*, Kosaka'498 and Kikuchi disclose the method discussed in claim 13

above, and Kosaka'498 further teaches of the communication result information received in the

reception step includes a transmission destination (see Fig. 7, column 7, lines 37 though 56).

Regarding *claim 17*, Kosaka'498 discloses a method of controlling a system that includes

a data communication system (facsimile machine 201, see Figs. 1 and 2) for performing data

communication with a destination (facsimile machine 208) and a data processing terminal (server

202) for controlling the data communication system (column 3, lines 30 through 53), with the

data communication system being connected to the data processing terminal via a network that is

connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals (LAN 125, seen in Fig. 2, and read in

column 3, lines 24 through 43). Kosaka'498's method comprises at the data communication

system, inputting a designation manually entered by an operator using an operation input unit

(operation unit 112, see Fig. 1, column 3, lines 14 through 16), designating an ID (sender

terminal identifier, column 4, lines 47 through 57) based on the manual designation inputted

using the operation unit (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1, column 7, line 61 through column 8, line

3), performing data communication with an external data communication terminal (facsimile

208) in accordance with a destination inputted using the operation input unit (column 7, line 55

through column 8, line 3), notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated

ID, via a connector (wired/wireless LAN controller 124) connecting the data communication

system and the data processing terminal (see Figs. 1 and 2), of communication result information

representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the

inputted destination (column 7, lines 29 through 67, see Fig. 7). Further, Kosaka'498 teaches of

the steps of at the data processing terminal, instructing the data communication system to

communicate with a destination (column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 22), receiving

communication result information notified by the data communication system in the notifying

step (column 8, lines 20 through 67), wherein the notification step notifies the data processing

terminal of the communication result information related to the data communication upon

completion of the data transmission performed by the data transmitter (step S40 in Fig. 8), and

wherein the notification includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted using the

operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data

processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information

(see Fig. 7).

However, Kosaka'498 fails to teach of independently storing the communication result

information related to the data communication based on an instruction in the instructing step and

communication result information received from the data communication system in the receiving

step. Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a system (see Figs. 1, 3, and 4) that includes a

data communication system (remote fax 9) for performing data communication with a

destination (opposite fax 6) and a data processing terminal (fax server 1) for controlling the data

communication system, with the data communication system being connected to the data

processing terminal via a network (LAN 4) that is connectable to a plurality of data processing

terminals (see Fig. 1). Kikuchi's method comprises, at the data communication system (remote

fax 9), the steps of inputting a designation manually entered by an operator using an operation

input unit (column 8, lines 58 through 64), designating an ID based on the manual designation

inputted using the operation input unit (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), performing

data communication with an external data communication terminal (opposite fax 6) in

accordance with a destination inputted using the operation input unit (column 8, lines 58 through

66, and column 10, lines 57 through 67), and notifying the data processing terminal (fax server

1) corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector (LAN control unit 21) connecting the data

communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information

representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal (column 8,

line 58 through column 9, line 9, and column 17, line 55 through column 18, line 19, wherein the

transmission result information includes communication history data which includes the results

of the communications with the opposite faxes 6). Kikuchi's method further comprises, at the

data processing terminal (fax server 1), the steps of instructing the data communication system

(remote fax 9) to communicate with a destination (opposite fax 6, column 9, line 44 through

column 10, line 67), receiving communication result information notified by the data

communication system in the notifying step (column 17, line 47 through column 18, line 19), and

independently storing the communication result information related to the data communication

based on an instruction in the instructing step (process of Fig. 10) and communication result

information received from the data communication system (column 17, lines 60 through 67) in

the receiving step (see Fig. 7, column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 24, wherein the user

identifier of each opposite communication party with the number of sheets of each

communication, along with the result of the communication are stored in management table 32,

read in column 7, lines 10 through 25. Since each of the user identifier's and each of the

communications are stored with the corresponding communication result, it can be interpreted

that the individual communication results are stored independently, whether the result

information is received in the reception step, or based on an instruction in the instruction step).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to include Kikuchi's teachings within Kosaka'498's system. Kosaka'498's

system would easily be modified to incorporate Kikuchi's teachings, as the systems share

cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Regarding *claim 20*, Kosaka'498 discloses a computer-readable storage medium (ROM

102) storing a program (column 2, lines 43 through 53) for implementing a method for

controlling a data processing terminal, connected to a data communication system (facsimile

201, seen in Figs. 1 and 2) via a network (LAN 125) that connects the data communication

system to a plurality of data processing terminals (see Fig. 2) for performing data communication

with a destination (receiving side facsimile apparatus 208), and of controlling the data

communication system (facsimile apparatus 201, seen in Figs 1 and 2, with a process seen in

Figs. 5 and 8). Kosaka'498's program comprises program codes for an input step, in which an

operator manually inputs (column 3, lines 14 through 16) a destination using an operation input

unit (operation unit 112, see Fig. 1), a transmission step, in which data is transmitted (column 2,

line 64 through column 3, line 6, and column 6, lines 43 through 49) to an external data

communication terminal (facsimile 208) via a line (through wire communication line 120) that

does not include the connector (see Figs. 1 and 2), a reception step, in which communication

result information representing a data communication performed in accordance with a manual

operation inputted by the operator in the input step is received from the data communication

system (column 8, lies 20 through 67), a step of instructing the data communication system

(transmitting-side facsimile apparatus 201) to communicate with the destination by the data

processing terminal (column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 19), a step of notifying the data

processing terminal of the communication result information related to the data communication

upon completion of the data transmission performed in the data transmission step (step S40 in

Fig. 8), wherein the notification step notifies, in a case where user information is inputted by the

operation unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing

terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information (see Fig. 7).

However, Kosaka'498 fails to teach of a storage step of independently storing the

communication result information representing a data communication based on an instruction in

the instruction step. Kikuchi discloses a method of controlling a data processing terminal (fax

server 1, see Figs. 1 and 3), connected to a data communication system (remote fax 9) via a

connector (LAN control unit 21) that connects the data communication system (remote fax 9) to

a plurality of data processing terminals (see Fig. 1, fax server 1, file server 2, and clients 3) for

performing data communication with a destination (opposite fax 6), and of controlling the data

communication system. Kikuchi's method comprises an input step, in which an operator

manually inputs a destination (column 8, line 55 through column 9, line 9, and column 11, line

61 through column 12, line 5), using an operation input unit (operation control unit 22, see Fig.

4, column 5, lines 59 through 62), a transmission step, in which data is transmitted (column 9,

line 44 through column 10, column 10, line 56, and column 11, line 61 through column 12, line

28) to an external data communication terminal (fax 6) via a line that does not include the

connector (public switched network 5, column 10, lines 57 through 67), a reception step, in

which communication result information (communication history data, wherein the transmission

result information includes communication history data which includes the results of the

communications with the opposite faxes 6, seen in column 17, lines 60 through 67) representing

a data communication performed in accordance with the destination inputted by the operator in

the input step is received from the data communication system (column 8, line 58 through

column 9, line 9, and see Fig. 10, column 9, line 63 through column 10, line 67, whereby a

document is transmitted to a destination user identifier and destination telephone number of a fax

6 which was entered by a user of the operation control unit 22, therein having information

regarding the result of this communication in the history data which is transmitted by the remote

fax 9 and received in the receiving step by the fax server 1, column 17, lines 60 through 67), a

step of instructing the data communication system (remote fax 9) to communicate with the

destination (see Fig. 10, and column 9, line 44 through column 10, line 67), and a step of

independently storing the communication result information received in the reception step

(column 17, lines 60 through 67) and communication result information representing a data

communication based on an instruction (process of Fig. 10) in the instruction step (see Fig. 7,

column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 24, wherein the user identifier of each opposite

communication party with the number of sheets of each communication, along with the result of

the communication are stored in management table 32, read in column 7, lines 10 through 25.

Since each of the user identifier's and each of the communications are stored with the

corresponding communication result, it can be interpreted that the individual communication

results are stored independently, whether the result information is received in the reception step,

or based on an instruction in the instruction step). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Kikuchi's

teachings within Kosaka'498's system. Kosaka'498's system would easily be modified to

incorporate Kikuchi's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in

nature.

Conclusion

16.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

J.R.P.

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Examiner
Art Unit 2622
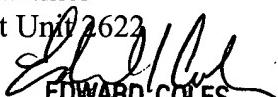
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May 31, 2002